Africa RISING Ethiopia

Transforming African agriculture through sustainable intensification

**LEMO TRIP REPORT**

Travelers:

Peter Thorne (ILRI), Kinde Getnet (IWMI), Aberra Adie (ILRI), Abiyot Aragaw (CIP)

Itinerary: Nov. 22: AA – Hawassa

Nov. 23: Hawassa – Hosana

Nov. 24: Hosana – AA

Purpose:

• Introducing the AfricaRising Ethiopia project to partners at the SNNPR region, Hadiya zone and Lemo woreda

• To jointly select kebeles within the selected woreda (Lemo) at the Hadiya zone of SNNPR for the initial research work of the Project

**Day 1: Thursday Nov 22, 2012**

Drs. Peter Thorne (ILRI), Kinde Getnet (IWMI) and Mr. Aberra Adie (ILRI) traveled to Hawasa and joined by Mr. Abiyot Aragaw (CIP) at SARI, Hawassa. The team visited SARI and the regional Bureau of Agriculture, SNNPR.

***Meeting with Dr. Nigussie Dana, DG of SARI***

Dr Nigussie warmly welcomed the team in his office. Dr. Peter thanked the DG for the reception and briefly explained the purpose of the visit followed by brief orientation about the AfricaRising project and its objectives. Dr. Peter explained that one of the project sites in Ethiopia is Lemo woreda in Hadiya zone of SNNPR. The woreda selection was based on GIS information from IFPRI. Two kebeles within the Lemo woreda will be selected for the initial stage of the project activities. More kebeles will be added in the course of the project. The kebele selection will be done in discussion with the staff of Agricultural offices from Hadiya zone and Lemo woreda.

Dr. Nigussie in his turn briefed the SARI’s research programs and the different directorstes and sub-research centers operating under SARI. Accordingly, there are three directorates: Livestock, Crop and NRM and six sub centers: Hawassa, Areka, Jinka, Bonga, Arbaminch and Worabe. The sub centers have geographic mandates and hence Lemo woreda is under Areka sub center. It was also learned that SARI like the rest of the regional research centers is autonomous with dotted line structure with the federal EIAR.

***Meeting in the Regional Bureau of Agriculture***

Participants from the Bureau include:

1. Debebe GashawBeza – Deputy head of BoA
2. Tadele Mukoro – Irrigation department head of BoA
3. Asrat Lera – SARI Livestock directorate director
4. Desta Gebriel – Livestock Extension department head of BoA
5. Anteneh Fekadu – SARI NRM directorate director

Similar briefing about the project was made to the participants by Dr. Peter. The participants expressed their appreciation about the project and inquired the rationale behind the selection of Lemo woreda and it has been explained it was based on the GIS based information form IFPRI. The participants were given opportunity to comment given the criteria, which the wheat coverage ranges within the region. They eventually agreed with the selection.

The participants then explained the different activities being carried out in the region. Accordingly, it has been understood that there is a massive activity in there are of livestock breed improvement. About 50,000 cows have been hormonally synchronized for AI in October and November this year to calve in June-July next year. It has been reported that there are 13 poultry multiplication centers in the region for white leg horn breeds. The small ruminant’s development program is working the ever increasing domestic demand and foreign market to the gulf countries. Bohr goat and Dorper sheep breeds have been introduced in Jinka and Areka research sub centers respectively for research and development purposes. The Boku project co-implemented by ILRI and ICARDA at Bonga is another example of the effort around the development of small ruminants. There are fourteen community based breeder cooperatives. There are two fish seed multiplication centers at Hawassa and Arbaminch to support fishery development and satisfy the ever increasing demand for fingerlings.

There are 170 SSI schemes in the region to support high value crop production including fruits, vegetables and livestock fodder. There is a complete data base indicating the potential water resources in the region. The livestock fodder development is also built in the framework of the large scale SWC activities across the region. In general there is a plan to increase crop production by 30% and livestock production by 20% at household level this year. In order to meet this requirement, each household is mandated to have a scheme.

**Day 2: Friday** **Nov 22, 2012**

The team visited Areka research center en route to Hosana, Zonal town of Hadiya. At Areka, briefing about the AfricaRising project was made to Mr. Yasin Goa, director of the research center by Dr. Peter. M r. Yasin on his turn briefed the research program undertaken by the center. Accordingly, the major research area includes: Pulses, Cereals (Wheat and Barley), Ensete, Small ruminants and Livestock Feeds. He promised that the center will collaborate with the AfricaRising project in the research undertaken in Lemo and other sites within the command area of the center.

***Meeting in the Hadiya Zone Bureau of Agriculture***

Participants from the Agricultural Office:

1. Mr. Melaku Bafa – Head, Bureau of Agriculture, Hadiya zone
2. Mr. Kasa Hansamo – Head, Office of Agriculture, Lemo woreda

After a round of introduction of the visiting team, Dr. Peter made project briefing and the process of woreda selection and possibilities of selecting two kebeles within the Lemo woreda for the project. The officers appreciated the choice of their zone/woreda for the project and highlighted some the agricultural activities of their zone. According to the explanation there are 10 woredas and one town administration in Hadya zone and that the farming is basically crop-livestock mixture. There are particular woredas like Soro which are livestock dominant, with over 1000 heads of cattle per household in some cases which is semi-pastoral type of farming. There is emerging market for livestock product around the urban/semi-urban areas. There is one dairy cooperative with about 45 members and a milk processing unit in Hosana. Other dairy cooperatives are also emerging. Hormonal synchronization of cows for improving the dairy breeds is one of the livestock development activities undertaken in the zone. Crop types grown in the zone include: Wheat, Teff, Maize, Potatoes, Beans, Ensete, etc.

Current agricultural extension services revolve around SWC, fodder development, destocking/zero grazing of livestock, crop improvement. The officers promised that there is strong need and interest with the community for any technological intervention which could improve the production and productivity of their agricultural system.

Kebele selection was made by the officers in discussion with the visiting team. According to kebeles were selected based on their distance to Hosana market. Hence, ***Jawe kebele*** was chosen to represent closer to market kebeles and ***Upper Gana kebele*** to represent distant kebeles to Hosana market.

The team led by the officers from the Lemo woreda office of Agriculture visited the two selected kebeles.

***Jawe Kebele***

This Kebele is chosen for its closeness to Hosana market and it is 10km (up to the point where the service cooperatives is located) away from market. There is road access to vehicles and transport animals though the road needs frequent maintenance. The major crops grown include wheat, Ensete, Teff, Maize, Beans, etc. There are Development Agents for crops, livestock and NRM. This kebele is one of the largest kebeles in the woreda with over 900 households. Livestock farming includes cattle, equines, and sheep. The tree cover in the area seems reasonable with the majority of Eucalyptus and some indigenous trees along farm margins and homesteads. The youth,including kebele elects flee to South Africa in search for better jobs. To this effect, the current kebele chairman, following his predecessor flees to SA and as a result the community is now looking for a replacement chairman.

***Upper Gana Kebele***

**Discussion with Kebele Management and Development staff**

Participants from the Kebele:

1. Alemu Ashoro – Kebele Manager
2. Demeke Beyene – DA, Crop production
3. Habtamu Abera – Omo Micro financing Agent
4. Getachew Dobemo – Lemo woreda Agricultural Extension head

This kebele representing the distant kebeles to Hosana market is located 14 km away from Hosana. There is a gravel road which relatively in poorer condition than the road to Jawe. The road extends to another woreda and hence there is probability of maintenance by the local government. The total number of household amounts to 750 out of which 705 and men led and 45 are women led. The total population in this area is about 6195 (3107 male, 3088 female). Crops grown in this kebele include: Wheat, Teff, Maize, Beans, Potatoes, Peas, Beans, Lentils, Apple, Ensete, Coffee, and Kat. There is small scale irrigation activity from family pond and spring ponds for horticultural crops. The livestock in the kebele include cattle, shoats, equines, all local breeds. The distance to Hosana market takes 2 hours on foot. The informants mentioned that the farmers in the kebele get lesser return from their produce as compared to those closer to Hosana market due to the distance of the kebele from the market.

The extension services activities include SWC (Watershed management), crop improvement (mainly wheat). However, the demand for extension outputs higher than the supply. There are minimal technological interventions in the area. The need for improved dairy cow is quite high that one cow costs up to Birr 45,000. Demand for dairy products is increasing from time to time. However feed shortage and less productivity of livestock is prevalent in the area. Agroforestry in the kebele like other kebeles is something the community is well familiar with. The OMO Micro-financing institution provides credit services of up to Birr 2000.00 to farmers for small scale businesses. The collateral is land user right book.

**Conclusion**

The team concluded that the two kebeles which have been visited are ideal for the initial activities of the project and that more kebeles could be added in the due course. Dr. Peter mentioned to all the partners the tem visited that there will be a planning workshop in mid-January next year and that some of the partners may be invited to attend for their inputs during the event.

**Day 3 – Nov 24, 2012**

The team travel back to Addis

Aberra Adie

Nov 29/2012